Increase in forests and trees

2663. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forests and trees have registered an increase, as reported in the report titled 'India's Forest and Tree Cover' released by Government in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the recommendations made in the said report; and

(d) the details of the action taken by Government, so far, on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. "India State of Forest Report 2009", released on 30th November, 2009, shows an increase of 728 Km^2 in forest cover & 1,106 Km^2 in tree cover with reference to previous assessment (SFR, 2005). This report provides only the status of forest cover, tree cover, growing stock of forests, trees outside forests, forest cover in different altitude zones and distribution of forest cover in different forest types.

Deaths of tigers

2664. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether death of tigers is going on at an alarming rate;

(b) if so, whether various wildlife NGOs have collected statistics in the recent past in this regard;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) the details of the cases of seizures of skins, bones, claws, skeletons, canines and paws by police and wildlife authorities during 2009-10, so far, in various parts of the country;

(e) whether it is a fact that tigers in various reserves are absent because their prey has been hunted out from those reserves;

(f) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(g) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) As reported by States and information gathered from the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, during 2009, mortality of 59 tigers (including seizure of 7 skins) has taken place. The State-wise details are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(d) The enforcement of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is done by States, hence information on poachers booked/arrested/sentenced is not collated at the Government of India level.

(e) to (g) As per the findings of the recent All India tiger estimation in 2008 using the refined methodology, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The State-wise tiger population and area of tiger occupied landscapes are indicated in the Statement-II (*See* below). The new findings are based on spatial occupancy of tigers and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework, which is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks. The said findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for conservation of tigers and its habitat are given in the statement. [Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 2642 Part (a) to (f)]

Statement-I

Tiger Mortality (as reported by States/ information gathered from the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau)

As on 13.11.2009

S.No.	State	No. of tiger mortality	Remarks
1.	Madhya Pradesh	13	-
2.	Assam	10	-
3.	Maharashtra	4	Includes seizure of 1 skin
4.	Uttarakhand	7	Includes seizure of 1 skin
5.	Karnataka	9	-
6.	Rajasthan	3	-
7.	West Bengal	2	-
8.	Uttar Pradesh	3	-
9.	Tamil Nadu	1	Includes seizure of 1 skin
10.	Andhra Pradesh	2	Includes seizure of 2 skins
11.	Goa	1	-
12.	Orissa	1	-
13.	Delhi	2	Includes seizure of 2 skins
14.	Kerala	1	-
	TOTAL :	59	Includes seizure of 7 skins

Statement-II

Forest occupancy and population estimates of tiger as per the refined methodology

State	Tiger km^2	Tiger Numbers		
		No.	Lower limit	Upper limit
Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex				
Uttarakhand	1901	178	161	195
Uttar Pradesh	2766	109	91	127
Bihar	510	10	7	13
Shivalik-Gangatic	5177	297	259	335
Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex				
Andhra Pradesh	14126	95	84	107
Chhattisgarh	3609	26	23	28
Madhya Pradesh	15614	300	236	364
Maharashtra	4273	103	76	131
Orissa	9144	45	37	53
Rajasthan	356	32	30	35
Jharkhand**	1488		Not Assessed	
Central Indian	48610	601	486	718
Western Ghats Landscape Complex				
Karnataka	18715	290	241	339
Kerala	6168	46	39	53
Tamil Nadu	9211	76	56	95
Western Ghats	34094	412	336	487
North East Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains				
Assam*	1164	70	60	80
Arunachal Pradesh*	1685	14	12	18
Mizoram*	785	6	4	8
Northern West Bengal*	596	10	8	12
North East Hills, and Brahmaputra	4230	100	84	118
Sunderbans	1586		Not Assessed	
Total Tiger Population		1411	1165	1657

* Population estimates are based on possible density of tiger occupied landscape in the area, not assessed by double sampling.

** Data was not amenable to population estimation of tiger. However, available information about the landscape indicates low densities of tiger in the area ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 per 100 km^2.